

Message from the Administrator

It is my privilege to submit President Obama's Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 budget request of \$18.7 billion for NASA. Even in these difficult fiscal times, this budget supports all elements of the bipartisan NASA Authorization Act of 2010, along with the President's agenda of *innovation, education, and infrastructure*. However, tough choices had to be made. That is why this budget prioritizes urgent needs, while continuing the Agency's focus on a reinvigorated path of exploration, innovation, and technological development leading to an array of challenging destinations and missions. Today, we begin to win the future.

The dedicated NASA workforce across the Nation is energized to continue our missions throughout the cosmos and here on Earth. The Agency continues to develop a capability-driven framework for affordable, sustainable, and realistic exploration, and this budget aligns our plans with the Authorization Act in a long-term, affordable, and sustainable manner.

Our priorities are to: safely fly out the Space Shuttle this year and maintain safe access for humans to low Earth orbit as we fully utilize the International Space Station; facilitate safe, reliable, and cost effective U.S.-provided commercial access to low Earth orbit for crew and cargo as soon as possible; begin to lay the ground work for expanding human presence into deep space through development of a powerful rocket and modern crew capsule; and pursue technology development to carry humans farther into the solar system even as we extend our reach with robots and observatories and make the most of technological breakthroughs to improve life here at home.

Building on President Obama's charge to all Federal agencies, we will carry out programs of innovation to support long-term job growth and a dynamic economy by increasing investment in research and technology. We will educate the next generation of technology leaders through vital programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. We will build the future through those investments in American industry to create a new job-producing engine for the U.S. economy while we remain committed to Federal goals to be stewards of our communities and make progress in our use of clean energy at our facilities.

The FY 2012 budget sets ambitious but achievable goals that foster America's continued leadership in space and forges deeper and more effective partnerships with the growing number of nations that are taking part in the space exploration enterprise. The space program remains a great value for the American taxpayer. The Agency's FY 2012 budget helps NASA to be more nimble and responsive to opportunity and encourages us to embrace a crosscutting approach to our thinking and planning that builds on the connections between our diverse missions.

NASA is at the forefront of a bright future for America—a future in which we challenge ourselves to create a global space enterprise with positive ramifications across the world. The FY 2012 budget provides the resources for NASA to innovate and discover on many fronts, and we look forward to implementing it.



Charles F. Bolden Jr.
NASA Administrator